THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is administered through a set of Guidelines which specifies the authority and responsibility of the Central Government, the State/UT Governments, the District Authorities and the Implementing Authority. The guidelines provide for undertaking works recommended by Hon'ble Members of Parliament in a time frame manner by the district authorities. Under the Scheme, no work shall be undertaken without the recommendation of Member of Parliament.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is responsible for the policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Scheme. Members of Parliament can complain both to the Ministry as well as to the Parliamentary Committees on MPLADS of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha respectively for redressal of their grievances.

Holistic development of tribals

1972. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the tribals are the indigenous people of the country;

(b) whether Government has formulated a well-defined policy for indigenous people for their holistic development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) As the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for the overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes of the development for the Scheduled Tribes (STs) as notified under Article 342 of the Constitution, it has drafted a National Tribal Policy which addresses issues relating to the holistic development of Scheduled Tribes of the country.

ST status to communities in Assam

1973. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed its formalities for giving ST status of six communities including Koch Rajbangshi, Tea Tribes, Ahom, Chutias, Moran and Mattaks;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Government has already submitted the details of the supporting documents, etc. required as per norms; and

(d) whether his Ministry would be able to declare the tribal status to the above mentioned tribes during this financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI TUSHAR BHAI CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has processed the proposal of the State Government of Assam for inclusion of Adivasi Tea Tribes, Ahoms, Mattaks, Morans, Koch Rajbangshi and Chutias in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Assam as per modalities approved by the Government of India on 15/06/1999 for determining the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' lists.

(c) Additional justification regarding their proposal for inclusion of communities in the ST list of Assam has not been sent by the State Government of Assam.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Use of children for begging

†1974. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that children are used for begging at various places;

(b) whether many people beg with newly born babies in their lap even during scorching summer and severe cold;

(c) whether it is not amounted to severe exploitation of infant children; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent such exploitation of children and whether these steps have been successful and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) As per the report of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights "Rapid Appraisal of Children in begging and vending in Delhi" children are used for begging at various places at Delhi. Though the report is limited to Delhi the phenomena of child beggars is also prevalent in other parts of the country. As per media reports as well as from public perception it is a fact that many people beg with infants in their lap.

(c) to (e) The use of young children for begging and cruelty to children causing mental or physical suffering is punishable under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 as amended in 2006. The child beggars are also included in the category of 'children in need of care and protection' under the Act. Preventive, care, protection and rehabilitation services are provided for such children under 'Integrated Child Protection Scheme', a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, which has been launched recently. Once the Scheme is fully implemented in the country it is expected to create better environment for children who need care and protection.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.